

# The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIV.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 21, 1863.

NUMBER 45.

PUBLISHED (DAILY) BY  
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Jones's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

## The National Currency Bill.

We subjoin a synopsis of its leading provisions:

Banks are to be organized by the subscription of stock in shares of \$100 each. Stockholders are entitled to one vote for every share, and are allowed to vote by proxy, under properly guarded restrictions. If a bank of issue be contemplated, then bonds of the U. S. must be deposited in the treasury, for which the government will furnish notes for the bank to sign, circulate and redeem as its own, to the amount of ninety per cent. of the bonds deposited. No notes will be furnished of a less amount than \$5, and no other notes may be issued by the bank. These notes, during the suspension of specie payments, are to be a legal tender for all debts except public dues, by and to all persons, except to the banks issuing them. The banks must redeem them in lawful money of the U. S., and for this purpose are required to keep on hand an amount equivalent to twenty-five per cent. of the amount of notes they may have in circulation, and should this redemption fund fall below this twenty-five per cent., they are forbidden to issue any more notes until the deficiency is made good.

Should the bonds of the U. S., deposited in the Treasury as security for the notes furnished to the banks for circulation, fall below par, and continue so for a specified period, the banks are required to deposit additional bonds. The government will appoint a special agent to take charge of the affairs of any association that fails to redeem its issues, and will proceed to redeem the notes of such association at the public Treasury, retaining and selling the bonds deposited to pay for the same.

Banks are forbidden from paying out uncurrent or depreciated money over their counters; from speculating in real estate; from loaning extensively to their own stockholders; from paying any dividends upon profits, except all bad and doubtful debts are first deducted from such profits; from pledging or depositing their own funds as security for any debts due to or advances received from other banks; and from loaning to their own officers, directors and stockholders, upon terms more favorable than those exacted from strangers.

Officers, directors and stockholders are forbidden from becoming indebted to their own banks beyond a certain prescribed amount, in defined proportion to the stock owned by them; and they are forbidden to sell or transfer any stock owned by them while directly or indirectly indebted to their bank.

Banks are required periodically to publish a statement of their condition, made under oath; to keep publicly posted, for the information of all who may be interested, a list of the names and residences of their officers, directors and stockholders, and of the amount of stock owned by each; and a periodical examination into the condition of their affairs is to be made by a person appointed by the government.

Payments, transfers, assignments, mortgages, deposits, or any acts prejudicial to creditors, done in contemplation of insolvency, are declared void. Directors are required to be sworn officers, and acting under oath.

Ample provisions protect associations in the exercise of all customary powers and privileges pertaining to legitimate banking. Their old and worn or mutilated notes to be constantly renewed by government, without cost. Inter-

rest upon bonds deposited by the bank as security for the circulation furnished is to be paid to them semi-annually, in gold; the known and wilful violation of any provision by which the banks are to be governed is punished by a forfeiture of the charter, and ample penal provisions protect them from injury, by prescribing punishment for theft, counterfeiting, forgery and other wrongs committed against them.

The increasing scarcity of nickel pennies causes no little inconvenience to the public in N. Y., who are forced to resort to diminutive shipplasters and bits of pasteboard in order to make change. In consequence of this lack of change, there has been a general advance in edibles and beverages; the storekeepers being compelled to take this step to avoid the necessity of issuing shipplasters. Some dealers are now paying as high as twenty-five cts. premium for nickels.

It is said that in Baltimore yesterday, several Secessionists, who used harsh expressions against General Butler, were roughly handled on several occasions by Union men, who knocked them down.

Among the prisoners in the Libby Prison is J. J. Thomas, of the Maryland Senate, captured in Maryland recently, and held as a hostage for prominent Virginians in Federal custody.

The signal book of the Harriet Lane, pierced by the same bullet that killed Captain Wainwright, has reached Richmond.

Rev. Drs. Leacock, Fulton and Goodrich, who were not permitted to land at New Orleans unless they took the oath of allegiance, have come back to New York.

Virginia Bank notes are sold in Washington and Baltimore at from 25 to 30 per cent. discount.

The steamers Rowena, White Cloud and Knapp have been seized as prizes by the gunboat New Era at or near Island No. 10, for containing contraband goods, such as quinine and morphine in large quantities, arms, Confederate uniforms, army blankets, and other general merchandise and contraband of war. The White Cloud had on board a large mail, containing important information. The steamer Home was seized by Admiral Porter.

Gold, in New York, yesterday, 163½.

The Wheeling Intelligencer mentions rumors, that it does not credit, that the Confederates had entered Romney and driven the Federal forces out of the town, and that a Federal foraging party had been captured near Romney.

A number of Confederate prisoners arrived in Washington, yesterday, from Camp Chase, Ohio, and have been confined in the Old Capitol prison preparatory to being exchanged and sent South. All of them are civilians, and some of them have been in Camp Chase as long as eleven months. There are a number of boys accompanying their parents.

A Democratic paper published at Keokuk, Illinois, has been destroyed by the convalescent soldiers in the hospital at that place.

## FROM GEN. GRANT'S ARMY.

CHICAGO, Feb. 20. —A special Cairo dispatch says that the sickness among the army at Vicksburg is increasing.

The Vicksburg Whig of the 9th says, the river is overflowing its banks, on the Louisiana side of the town of De Soto, opposite that city. It was expected that the whole peninsula would soon be under water.

The Memphis Appeal correspondence of the 9th says, there is now no longer doubt that the whole force of the Confederates is concentrated within seeing distance of the city. The mortar boats were towed down yesterday to a point near the rendezvous of the fleet. Every moment may announce the commencement of an attack.

The town of Bolivar Landing, fifty miles above Memphis, has been destroyed by the gunboat Conestoga, in retaliation for guerrilla firing into the steamer Jenny Lind.

It is reported at Memphis that 4,000 Confederates are within six miles of the Charleston railroad. The tow boat Hercules was burned by guerrillas to-day just above Memphis.

A skirmish between a small party of Federals and 300 First Louisiana cavalry occurred on the 10th inst., near Lake Providence. It resulted in the rout of the latter. The loss is unknown, twenty-five prisoners were taken. — The Federal loss was one killed and twelve wounded.

FROM MEXICO. — Mexican advices represent the French army in a sad state of health. The small-pox and dysentery are playing sad havoc. The French steamer Lance has been burned and abandoned at Tampico. Some accounts say she was fired by her crew, and others assert that she was destroyed by Mexican shots. Three vessels, laden, one with ammunition, and others with provisions and coal, were also abandoned. The Mexicans claim to have captured three large lots of French mules, and also to have beaten 1,200 French troops at El Orjana, causing them to retire with a loss of 26 killed and 30 or 40 wounded. Also, to have occupied Jalapa. The French have established hospitals at Perote and Quechole. In the latter there are two thousand patients. A Mexican named Bernardi, who served as escort for several American Consuls, was captured by the French, and shot.

Advices from Nassau report that a number of vessels have recently arrived there from Southern ports, generally laden with cotton, and that several had sailed, it is supposed, with the intention of running the blockade.

The gunboat Queen of the West, which ran the batteries at Vicksburg, has been sent up the Red river to destroy some Confederate vessels there.

During the past year, 317,634 tons of coal were shipped from the coal region in Allegheny county, Md. This is an increase of 47,960 tons over the previous year. Of the total shipments, there were sent over the Baltimore and Ohio railroad 218,951, and via the Chesapeake and Ohio canal 98,683 tons.

The New York Times says that the Emperor of the French seeks to make an alliance with the principal European powers, for the restoration of peace in the United States, and that Lord J. Russell is favorably disposed thereto.